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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 2 August 2004 from the Chargée d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I have the honour to address you for the purpose of forwarding the annexed document,* which presents an analysis of the negative impact of the new measures against Cuba announced by the Government of the United States of America on 6 May 2004 on the enjoyment of the human rights of the Cuban people.

Not satisfied with the aggressive policy and genocidal economic, commercial and financial blockade applied against Cuba for over 45 years, which constitutes the most flagrant, massive and systematic violation of the entire Cuban people's human rights, the Government of the United States is now proposing through the imposition of new and more cruel measures against our country, to tighten the blockade and, hence, exacerbate the hardships and suffering of 11 million Cubans, whom it seeks to subjugate by hunger and disease simply for the "crime" of defending their freedom, sovereignty and independence.

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* Reproduced in the annex as received, in English and Spanish only.

In this connection, and considering the pernicious consequences that such measures impose on our population, I request you to have the annexed document circulated to all the special rapporteurs, independent experts, special representatives of the Secretary-General and chairpersons of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, and also issued as an official document of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 9 of its agenda.

(*Signed*): Celia LABORA
Chargée d'Affairs a.i.

Annex

Brief analysis of the negative impact of the new measures announced by the Government of the United States of America on 6 May 2004 on the enjoyment of the human rights of the Cuban people

Few people in the world have had to struggle so tenaciously and for such a prolonged period as the Cuban people to achieve real enjoyment of their human rights. After 30 years of unequal warfare against the Spanish colonial Power, which cost approximately one third of the Cuban people their lives, military intervention by the United States prevented Cubans from enjoying their right to self-determination and building the democratic and just society advocated by the leaders of our saga in quest of freedom, unquestionably foremost among them our national hero, José Martí.

The Cuban republic would be born with its sovereignty circumscribed and under continuous threat and the experience in practice of successive military interventions by the United States, so that the republic was denied its capacity to make use of the country's natural resources - stolen by capitalist companies from the North which were beginning their cycle of multinational expansion - for the development and well-being of Cuban men and women.

In this context of political, economic, and social domination, a Creole oligarchy proliferated, totally dependent in economic, political and ideological terms on the structures of the United States neo-colonial Power, acting as an accomplice and beneficiary of the status quo. Corruption, fraud, theft of the nation's wealth, disregard of the needs of the vast majority immersed in hunger, illiteracy and poverty, giving rise to brutal dictatorships that sought to silence with blood the just demands of the people, characterized the exercise of power in Cuba, with very few exceptions, in the nearly six decades during which the destiny of the Cuban people was decided in Washington.

Faced with the ethical and moral corruption of successive Governments and the Creole oligarchy, the Cuban people always retained a deep attachment to the values and principles of national freedom and independence, social justice, democracy and human solidarity, which inevitably took the form of a deep-seated anti-imperialist calling.

The revolutionary process that allowed the Cuban people, on 1 January 1959, to become, for the first time, the masters and owners of their own destiny, established the foundations for the fuller enjoyment of the human rights of Cuban men and women, without any discrimination for reasons of sex, skin colour or social class.

The Cuban revolution returned to the people control over their resources and inheritance, which, combined with sound principles of equity and social justice in the formulation of policy and implementation of development programmes, has allowed the population of the island to benefit from progress that places it in the vanguard of developing countries in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

However, the most important achievement and keystone of all the progress attained by Cuban men and women in the enjoyment of their human rights is in the sphere of civil and political rights. Inspired by our own history and particularities, we Cubans have constructed our own political system, genuinely home-grown and based on profound and genuine respect for our historical inheritance and the values of full democratic participation.

The Cuban people has suffered over these more than four decades of revolutionary transformation from successive acts of aggression promoted and financed by various United States Administrations. The long list of such actions, which range from a mercenary invasion to hundreds of terrorist acts, has resulted in the deaths of 3,478 people, including many women and children, as well as the permanent physical impairment of a further 2,099 Cubans.

Seven out of every 10 Cubans were born and have lived subject to deprivation occasioned by the criminal United States policy of the economic, trade and financial embargo, amounting to full-scale economic warfare against the Cuban nation.

The adoption of the Helms-Burton Law by the United States Government in 1996 not only took extraterritoriality in application of a country's laws to new heights, but for the Cuban people meant the unlawful institutionalization by the United States legislature and executive of the permanent threat of returning it to the humiliating experience of the vassal republic imposed on it in 1902.

The Law sets out in detail the conditions for the dismantling of the Cuban constitutional system - conceived of with the full participation of the Cuban people and endorsed by an overwhelming majority in a universal referendum - and the requirements to be met by the "new regime" that it is intended to impose on the island to receive the blessing of the imperial Power.

In setting forth these ideas by way of introduction, we are simply referring to some questions that are essential to an understanding of the essence and real scope of the measures announced by the Bush Administration against the Cuban people on 6 May.

While there is an undoubted electoral slant in this new escalation in the policy of hostility, embargo and aggression on the part of the hegemonic super-Power against Cuba - it should be recalled that the terrorist mafia of Cuban origin, financed, protected and the beneficiary of the impunity accorded by successive United States Governments, played a decisive role in developments in the disputed presidential elections of 2000 in the state of Florida, making use of the shady, fraudulent skills acquired in the caricature of a republic in which they enriched themselves for more than 50 years in Cuba and then perfected in their present-day lair in Miami - it would be inappropriate to overlook the deeper-seated motivation for the anti-Cuban measures announced on 6 May last.

For the right-wing faction currently in power in the United States, which has been conducting an extremely aggressive and militarist foreign policy, decidedly unilateral and manifestly in contravention of international law, which many throughout the world have termed neo-fascist, the destruction of the Cuban revolution is a political and ideological obsession.

This group in power in the United States has never accepted the right of the Cuban nation to fully exercise its sovereignty. The opposition and challenge posed to the global hegemonic dominance of the super-Power by the exercise by the Cuban people of freedom and independence is unacceptable to the hawks in the Bush Administration. How could they allow a small developing country, situated only 90 miles from the United States, in a region which United States geopolitical strategists consider to be their backyard, to question and reject the political and economic model that they seek to impose - so as to dominate all the more completely - on third world countries? For them, the Cuban people have no other option than to submit to a system of political organization with a "Made in USA" label, and handover control of their economy to transnational corporations, subjecting themselves to the dictates of neo-liberalism.

The most significant and serious consequence of the anti-Cuban measures recently announced by the United States Government is the danger that these measures pose for the current exercise by the Cuban people of their right to self-determination, set forth in article 1, paragraph 1, of both International Human Rights Covenants. By virtue of that right: "All peoples … freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."

Each and every one of the measures announced by the current United States Administration on 6 May is focused on the primary objective of bringing about the destruction of the political, economic, social and cultural system constructed by the Cuban people, that is, imposing what has been termed a "regime change".

When President George W. Bush submitted the report of what he would come to call the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, new measures were revealed which, besides escalating the hostility, interference and provocation against the Cuban people, resulted in a significant tightening of the economic embargo against the country.

In this document, over 400 pages long, action was proposed that was directly aimed at further eroding the fundamental sources of income and support for the welfare of the Cuban people, in particular, tourism, the country's principal industry.

In pursuit of its unlawful objective of domination over the island, the Bush Administration has not hesitated to openly violate the right of United States citizens to travel freely to a country with which the United States is not at war - or at least has made no public declaration to that effect - and, still worse, has violated the right of Cubans living in the Northern Power to visit their family members in their country of origin.

The report advocates the need for continued restrictions on the granting of permits for educational visits and exchanges with United States academics, citizens and institutions, making such permits conditional on "direct support for the objectives of United States policy" towards Cuba. With this provision the Bush Administration violates a significant number of the rights of the Cuban and United States peoples, all of which are recognized in the International Bill of Human Rights.

Among these violations mention may be made of the undermining of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 19), pursuant to which everyone has the right "to seek [and] receive … information and ideas", as well as to "the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields" (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, art. 15, para. 4).

In the same vein, it should be noted that the Bush Administration, with its measures of 6 May, is taking a clear position against article 5 of the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 4 November 1996, which recognizes that "cultural cooperation is a right and a duty for all peoples and all nations, which should share with one another their knowledge and skills".

The measures, which began to be implemented on 30 June 2004, will seriously affect Cubans, not only those who live on the island, but a significant percentage of the large community of Cuban origin living in the United States. However, it should also be understood that these measures have been adopted in a clear and premeditated violation of the right of United States citizens to travel.

In successive opinion polls United States citizens have openly expressed their wish to see the unconditional lifting of the restrictions on their travel to Cuba. This popular demand in the United States has also been reflected at the institutional level, in that legislative initiatives have been adopted in both chambers of Congress with the express purpose of permitting travel to Cuba.

Cubans resident in the United States will be particularly affected. The Bush Administration will reduce their visits to the island from one annual trip - a restriction that was already in force - to one every three years for a maximum period of only two weeks. In addition, a requirement has been introduced for a special permit for each trip, rather than a general permit, as is the practice today. Cubans who have recently arrived in the United States may not travel to Cuba within three years of having emigrated. In addition, the amount of money that they may spend when they visit their family members in their country of origin will be reduced from the current daily limit of US$ 164 to only US$ 50.

Further, to impose further restrictions and constrain Cuba still more, the Bush Administration will allocate additional resources and take further action in third countries which are the source of tourism for Cuba to sabotage visits to the island by tourists of other nationalities.

The new measures strengthening the embargo and the all-out war against the Cuban tourism industry not only increase the impediments that the anti-Cuban policy of successive United States Governments has created to the full realization by the Cuban people of their right to development, set forth in the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, but are a criminal violation of the provisions of article 1, paragraph 2, of both International Human Rights Covenants, that "in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence".

With the tighter restrictions on travel to Cuba, the United States Government is contravening the spirit of article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which promotes the full enjoyment of liberty of movement of everyone lawfully within the territory of a State and freedom to travel from one country to another.

In addition, General Assembly resolution 57/227, entitled "Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification", adopted in December 2002, called upon "all States to guarantee the universally recognized freedom of travel to all foreign nationals legally residing in their territory".

The same resolution called on all States to allow "the free flow of financial remittances by foreign nationals residing in their territory to their relatives in the country of origin".

Further, the General Assembly decided, in the same text, to call upon all States to refrain from enacting, and to repeal if it already existed, legislation intended as a "coercive measure that discriminates against individuals or groups of legal migrants by adversely affecting family reunification and the right to send financial remittances to relatives in the country of origin".

Although for the time being the anti-Cuban measures being applied by Washington from 30 June have not included further restrictions on the already limited amounts of money that a Cuban resident of the United States may send to his or her family members in Cuba - discrimination that affects only Cubans among the legal migrants of all nationalities residing in the super-Power - it has been made clear that the categories of family members in the country of origin who may receive remittances will be significantly reduced.

With their unbridled obsession with overthrowing the Cuban revolution, Bush Administration officials have arrogated unto themselves the unthinkable authority to redefine the extent and limits of the Cuban family, restricting it to "grandparents, grandchildren, parents, brothers and sisters, spouses and children". That is to say, henceforth cousins, aunts, or other family members will not be recognized as members of the families of Cuban men and women resident in the United States. Just as the sending of money under the new provisions will be restricted to the categories of family members recognized by the Bush Administration, Cubans resident in the United States who send money, medicine or any other item to uncles or aunts, cousins or other categories of family members or close friends in Cuba will be liable to punishment.

The World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995, reaffirmed in paragraph 80 of its Programme of Action that "the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened". Further, it acknowledged that "in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist". Bush Administration officials, in their aggression against the Cuban nation, seek to deny the identity of Cuban families, rejecting inclusion of the same categories of relationship that traditionally have formed an intrinsic and inalienable part of this basic unit of the Cuban people.

Moreover, and in open violation of various articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - in particular articles 19, 20 and 21, which set forth the right to freedom of opinion and association and the right of everyone to take part in the government of his country - Cuban residents of the United States will be prohibited from sending remittances and parcels to

their family members in Cuba, if the latter are "government officials or members of the Communist party". That is to say, many Cubans will have to renounce their political rights if they wish to be able to continue receiving remittances from family members resident in the United States.

Still worse, and in a resurrection of the horrendous Nazi fascist practices of "denouncing" Jews and communists so that they could be punished, "rewards" will be paid to individuals who identify alleged violators of the new provisions. In due course "sting operations" will be conducted by special groups from United States federal agencies to "neutralize" any intent to circumscribe the brutal measures recently announced.

The harshness with which the United States Administration has been applying the hostile embargo measures against the Cuban people must not be underestimated. Between 1990 and 2003, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Department of the Treasury initiated 93 investigations linked with terrorism, but undertook 10,683 investigations into possible violations of the embargo against Cuba. Over the same period it collected US$ 9,425 in fines for the financing of terrorist activities; individuals who travelled to the island or traded with it without a licence from the Department of the Treasury had to pay $8 million.

There has been a further tightening of the restrictions on financial operations by the Cuban State, operations which are essential in a globalized world for such basic and vital activities as the purchase of food and medicine. A Swiss bank has just been fined $100 million for accepting Cuban financial transactions employing the dollar, a currency which serves as a standard and medium for a major part of world trade.

The United States Government pressures foreign banks not to receive funds from Cuba whose origin is absolutely legal and honest, and monitors and seeks to prevent any bank transfers from or to the island.

In endorsing the suggestions in the report of the so-called Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, President Bush has again manifested his total disregard of international law and his wish to impose his imperial extraterritorial dictates on the rest of the world.

In the first chapter of the report in question, entitled "Hastening Cuba's transition", the report recommended firm application of the sanctions provided for in title IV of the Helms-Burton Law, which prohibits the granting of United States entry visas to foreign investors in Cuba. Resources and staff for the enforcement of this provision will be increased.

Further, the report urges the United States authorities to conduct a rigorous study to evaluate whether application of title III of the Helms-Burton Law could accelerate the fall of the Cuban revolution, something which thus far, owing to international pressure, has been averted.

Just as serious as the measures of economic aggression to be applied by the Bush Administration at the end of June 2004 are other political and diplomatic measures that make for an all-out war of aggression against the Cuban people.

Millions of dollars - at least $59 million in two years, without counting other amounts channelled through covert operations by official United States intelligence agencies - will be allocated to aid and support Cuban counter-revolutionaries and political and diplomatic campaigns against Cuba in third countries and multilateral forums.

The terrorist mafia of Cuban origin in Miami, mercenaries on the island in the service of the super-Power policy of hostility, and United States imperialist circles - who keep alive their fond design of annexing Cuba - are the only beneficiaries of the anti-Cuban measures of 6 May.

None of them has any interest in the suffering imposed on the Cuban people. In reality, they seek to engineer a situation that would offer a pretext for renewed United States military aggression. They dream of this extreme option as all their earlier attempts to destroy the Cuban revolution have failed, as have their various plans to undermine the firm support of the people for the revolutionary leadership.

The United States authorities reach the zenith of interference and scorn for the right of self-determination of the Cuban people when they appoint themselves to help to establish new institutions and to draft legislation, regulations and even a new constitution for the republic. This is the inevitable reflection of the voraciousness of United States capital.

The White House must surely have failed to take into account the fact that Cubans remember very clearly - and with profound indignation - how, after the first United States intervention (1898-1902), the United States Government forced the humiliating Platt Amendment on its first Constitution; among other aberrations, this granted the United States full authority to intervene militarily in Cuba and to construct naval bases and coaling stations on its national territory, a prerogative exercised to establish the illegal United States naval base at Guantánamo, where concentration camps have been set up in which atrocities have been committed that remind us of the file pictures of Nazi acts during the Second World War.

The Cuban-American terrorist mafia and the Bush Administration hawks intend to replicate against the Cuban people the war of conquest and recolonization pursued against Iraq, relying on the "skills" developed there. "Smart" bombs that would kill women and children in the name of "freedom". Extrajudicial executions and torture to promote the enjoyment of "human rights". The plundering of the natural resources and wealth of the country to guarantee the "welfare" of the "people". The privatization of basic social services, such as education and health, to "universalize" access to such services.

In this vein, on 6 May, the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Roger Noriega - one of the drafters of the Helms-Burton Law and a representative of the Miami terrorist mafia in the United States Government - in detailing the content of the report, proposed that for the "transition in Cuba" should be created "institutions and services that improve the health, nutrition, education, housing and social services available to the Cuban people", on condition that they were through the "introduction of democratic values and practices and free enterprise".

In the report, the height of inappropriateness and manipulation, the immunization is proposed of "all children under 5 not yet vaccinated against the major childhood illnesses under the current health system". The United States authorities are perfectly aware - because their analysts and officials have easy access to public information periodically issued by the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies and because the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other federal intelligence services allocate significant financial and staff resources to the ongoing collection of information on Cuba's situation in all spheres of its political, economic, social and cultural life - that all Cuban children, before they are 2, are vaccinated against 13 illnesses, something which is not guaranteed in the United States.

With very little effort analysts in the Department of State and other United States federal agencies dealing with Cuban issues can find out that our health services, in addition to having achieved complete and free high-quality coverage for the entire population for many years - irrespective of the religious or political beliefs, race, sex, sexual orientation, or income level of the patient - are now undergoing a thorough reform to improve their infrastructure and conceptual basis, notwithstanding the relentless genocide that successive United States Governments have imposed on the Cuban health system.

If the United States authorities are so "interested" in helping Cubans to enjoy the right recognized under article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health", why do they not remove their obstacles to the purchase of cytostatic serums for the treatment of the various types of cancer suffered by Cuban children?

The United States has little to offer the rest of the world in terms of access to public health. In the richest and most opulent country in the world, a total of 81.8 million United States citizens under 65 have been without medical insurance or access to health services over the past two years. Some 60.5 per cent of citizens of Hispanic origin and 43 per cent of Afro-Americans had no type of medical insurance at any time over this period.

In Cuba not one person is without access to medical care, even in cases of extremely complex pathology in which treatment involving the use of the most costly equipment and drugs is required. In addition, more than 20,000 doctors and other health service personnel deliver this vital service in the furthest corners of the planet, benefiting in particular those who have no access to skilled medical treatment.

The new anti-Cuban measures announced by the Bush Administration include the strengthening of international campaigns to establish a political and diplomatic barrier around Cuba, including through manipulation of multilateral organs such as the Commission on Human Rights and the International Labour Organization, use of the Organization of American States - described by the defender of Cuban dignity, Raúl Roa García, as its colonial ministry - and involvement of Governments and political circles in third countries in the pursuit of its anti-Cuban goals.

The anti-Cuban activities decided on also include: the creation of an international fund for the protection and development of "Cuban civil society" (read mercenary organizations in the service of the policy of hostility against the Cuban nation); the funding of university grants programmes in cooperation with the Organization of American States so that the children of

"dissidents" (to be understood as counter-revolutionaries in the pay of the United States Interests Section in Havana) can study in Latin American universities; support for "non-governmental organizations" in third countries (to be understood as major funding for various CIA pet projects for covert operations against Cuba in Europe: Reporters Without Borders, Pax Christi/Netherlands and the Czech organization People in Trouble) to deter tourists and strengthen in a general sense anti-Cuban propaganda campaigns; and the allocation of $5 million to fund the holding of conferences in third countries on promoting transition in Cuba (this being the budget line for inflated per diems, accommodation at five-star hotels and first-class travel for their mercenaries of Cuban origin, "intellectuals" recruited by the CIA or simply "opportunists" willing to enrol in the service of any "cause" that pays well).

The report of the so-called Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba and the subsequent anti-Cuban measures proposed by the President of the United States represent an attempt to undermine the undoubted successes of the Cuban revolution in terms of education, employment, social security and protection, and efforts to combat racial discrimination, and in many other areas.

President Bush, with his new measures, says that he is willing to fund programmes to support what are termed "pro-democracy efforts on behalf of young people, women and Cubans of African origin". What kind of democracy is this a reference to? Does this latter-day führer perhaps intend to use Cuban youngsters in his imperial legions one day as cannon fodder in the conquest of the world - similar to what has been done with hundreds of Central American young people in Iraq? Why, before concerning himself with Cuban women - who have taken charge of their own destiny as the result of a revolution which has allowed them to participate on equal terms with men in the various economic, political and social activities of the country and in the exercise of power - does President Bush not concern himself with guaranteeing his own citizens these rights and begin by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women? Perhaps the man who has arrogated unto himself the role of a latter-day Caesar wishes to establish in Cuba a branch of his ideological inspiration, the Ku Klux Klan?

The United States is among the "very democratic" industrialized countries that, on ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, submitted a reservation to its article 4 so as not to be bound by the prohibition and legal punishment that this article provides for with regard to the existence of organizations or propaganda and dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred.

On 6 May President Bush decided to escalate further the radio and electronic aggression and campaigns of disinformation and the incitement of subversion in Cuba. The decision to use, for transmitting subversive radio and television broadcasts to the island, a C-130 military aircraft represents a dangerous provocation, aggravated by the use of military equipment.

An additional $18 million will be allocated for broadcasts by the ill-named Radio and TV Martí against the Cuban people from a C-130 military aircraft used solely for this purpose. With this aggressive and defiant decision, the United States is not only increasing its systematic violations of the regulations established by the International Telecommunication Union, but also the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 110 (II) and 127 (II), both adopted in 1947, only two years after the end of the Second World War.

In its resolution 110 (II) the General Assembly condemned "all forms of propaganda … designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression"; whereas in its resolution 127 (II) the General Assembly invited all States to combat "the publication of false or distorted reports likely to injure friendly relations between States".

The escalation in the radio and electronic war against Cuba, decided on last May by the Bush Administration, serves only the aims of those who wish to fabricate a crisis - real or artificial - that can serve as a pretext for United States military aggression against the island.

The United States, by increasing its provocation and threats of possible military aggression against the Cuban people - an option which it has not ruled out and which, on the contrary, has been alluded to on several occasions as a possibility in public statements by some Bush Administration officials and representatives of the Cuban-American terrorist mafia in the United States Congress - violates the sacred right of peoples, the peoples of the United States and of Cuba, to peace.

In its resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984, entitled "Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace", the United Nations General Assembly solemnly declared "that the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of each State". More recently, on 18 December 2002, the principal organ of the United Nations adopted its resolution 57/216, in which it reaffirmed "the obligation of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State".

The United States Administration under President Bush, which has cynically fabricated and imposed by blackmail and pressure a spurious text in the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on the false pretext of "promoting respect for the human rights of the Cuban people", has clearly and unequivocally shown itself, with the announcement of its anti-Cuban measures on 6 May, as having sole, historical and premeditated responsibility for the most serious violations of the human rights of Cuban men and women.

The entry into force of the anti-Cuban measures on 30 June 2004 marked a new qualitative stage in the policy of hostility, embargo and aggression and of massive, flagrant, systematic and premeditated violations of the human rights of the Cuban people by the United States authorities, greatly increasing the significance of acts that qualify as acts of genocide under article II (b) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Article II (b) defines as crimes of genocide acts "causing serious bodily or mental harm" committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

The team that helped President Bush to achieve executive power in the United States - after a judicial coup d'état which altered the actual results of the ballot in the Presidential election in 2000 - and which has participated directly in the design and implementation of a neo-fascist foreign policy, sustained by force and the undeniable military superiority of the super-Power as a spearhead and guarantee of its hegemonic domination, has demonstrated its clear intent to impose its domination on the Cuban nation, even if that means wiping the heroic Cuban people off the face of the earth.

In the defence of its just cause, Cuba knows that it can count on the solidarity and support of many friends and honest people in the world, the encouragement offered by the combined efforts of social and political movements that actively dissent from the imperial hegemonic order which the aggressive groups in power in Washington seek to impose, and, above all, the inalienable determination of its people to resist and to continue to advance in their ongoing plans for freedom, independence, participatory democracy, social justice, inclusive development and human solidarity.
